GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:456
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Use of Polythene Bags
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy of the Government in regard to the use of Polythene Plastic carry bags in the country;
(b) whether Polythene Plastic carry bags remain in use despite the imposition of a ban;
(c) if so, whether any monitoring of the same is undertaken at the Ministerial level;
(d) if so, the details and the type of monitoring undertaken in this regard;
(e) whether the Government has any proposal to implement a uniform law across the country with regard to a ban on the use of Polythene Plastic carry bags;
(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
(g) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, which prohibit manufacture, sale, stocking and use of plastic carry bags of less than 40 micron in thickness. The pigments and colourants used for manufacturing of plastic carry bags should conform to the Bureau of Indian Standard. No carry bags should be made available free of cost by retailers to consumers. The name, registration number of the manufacturer and thickness should be printed on each plastic carry bag. The municipal authorities are required to notify the minimum price for carry bags so as to minimize plastic waste generation. Any person manufacturing carry bags or engage in recycling of plastic waste is required to register with concerned State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee.

(b) The use of polythene bags above 40 micron thickness is permitted as per the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, and are in use.

(c) & (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above. However, as per, Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, the State Pollution Control Boards is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the abovementioned rules in respect of manufacture, registration and recycling. The Municipal authority is responsible for enforcement of provisions relating to use and sale of such bags in their jurisdiction. As per the mechanism under the Rules, all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are required to submit annual report to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which in turn is required prepare a consolidated report on use and management of plastic waste and forward it to this Ministry.

(e), (f) & (g) There is no proposal at present to impose a ban on the use of plastic carry bags.

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